THE

DESERT WHISPERS

Vol. 1 No. 5 FROM JOHNSON VALLEY 15¢ January, 1968.

GREETINGS

The January issue of "The Desert Whispers" is being sent to all property owners in Johnson Valley through the combined efforts of the Grandview Improvement Association and the staff of the Whispers.

The purpose is to acquaint property owners with the new newspaper. And with progress in the Valley, which is aided by group efforts of the GIA.

Property owners are invited to join, or to renew membership in the association, which meets the first Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m., in the association building. Alex Chernoff heads the organization this year.

Visitors are welcome.

Matters now being resolved in Johnson Valley include installation of telephone facilities, development of a recreation park at Rock Corral, a public refuse disposal facility, road improvement, and water.

The GIA is working to complete the association building so that it can be made available for public functions. The kitchen and rest room facilities must be completed, and work is progressing.

The refuse disposal site has been selected and awaits county approval. When placed in operation, a general clean-up campaign will be launched.

The telephone company is accepting applications for phones.

Federal approval is being sought for the park, and a fitting memorial to Daisy Crawford is underway.

Obviously those who participate in the formulation of these plans while the Valley is being developed, can guide the growth of the area, and affect the future conditions and values of their individual properties.

"The Desert Whispers" began publication in September, and is published the last Saturday of the month. The purpose is to report the growth of and activities in the Valley, as well as the personal side of life in the Valley.

A subscription is $1.50 for one year, or for 12 issues, in the event that the paper is published more frequently.

Comments, criticism, news items, home talent efforts and suggestions are invited.

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I believe that every right implies a responsibility, every opportunity an obligation; every possession a duty.

-John D. Rockerfeller, Jr.

G. I. A. MEET

Group purchase of home fire extinguiers will be discussed at the February meeting of the Grandview Improvement Association.

GIA President Alex Chernoff will preside at the session beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the association building.

The action is the result of a talk on fire extinguishers at the January meeting. Assistant Fire Chief Ron Webb of the Yucca Valley Fire Department was the guest speaker.

"Fire is man's best friend and worst enemy," the Chief said. He urged residents to have an exit plan in the event of home fires. "And never open a hot door," he stated emphatically, warning that an explosion could result.

"You can't beat fire," he said.

The majority of home fires begin in the living room and start from a cigarette. There were more than 12,000 fires and 247 deaths from fire in the United States last year.

The Chief advised home owners to check premises for fire hazards such as overloaded electrical circuits.

He described three types of fire extinguishers, the dry chemical, the CO2, and the water type.

The dry chemical is suitable for car, gasoline and oil fires, but is not the best in the house.

"It's a mess," he said. "You'll be cleaning up the powder for years."

CO2 is one of the best, but it is not good in a wind. CO2 is effective on a grease fire in the kitchen, it does not contaminate food, and does not leave a mess.

The water extinguisher, using "thin water", appears to be the best for fires in the house, but should not be used on electrical fires, or around electricity until the power is shut off, he added. The water type is the least expensive to buy and to fill, and the homeowner can refill it easily, from a supply of "thin water" kept on hand. Thin water will penetrate a mattress, and was developed to fight fires in cotton bales.

A box of soda can be an aid in smothering a fire, and can be kept in the kitchen.

Extinguishers should be tested annually he said. GIA members will consider the group purchase, with the desirability of group inspection or other feasible procedure, on a regular basis.

Following a question and answer period the meeting was adjourned by Alex Chernoff, president, in memory of Mr. Leonard Conrad.

WHISPERS AND SHOUTS

Guests at the Earl Roush Ranchero have included the sister of Bea and Goldie, Hazel Reed and her son Ronald, of Long Beach, and a nephew, Richard Reed of Los Angeles.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Seaton, from Akron, Ohio; Lulu Kraft, from East Liverpool, Ohio; and Mrs. Barbara Fike and son Steven from Riverside. Some hot pool games and a turkey dinner were among the highlights.

Goldie Hopper will return to Long Beach with the Reeds for a visit.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Buzz Lamb are new property owners in the Valley.

* * *

Sarge and Marie Stanley are enjoying all those dramatic new advantages: driving a new Chevrolet.

* * *

Clyde Strickland has been grounded for a month and more with a broken thumb.

* * *

Burl and Thelma Moore brought their grandson Jeff out for a visit, and the little rascal charmed everyone.

* * *

Mrs. Lucy Estes, Clarence's mother, observed her 88th birthday this month. In honor of the occasion, Flossy was hostess to a dozen guests for turkey and a birthday cake.

Guests included Mr. and Mrs. B.O. Brooks, of Desert Hot Springs; Mike and Edna Hodges, Sun Valley; Treva Sullivan of Ventura; Bill Burnett, Lucerne Valley and Earl and Betty Krohn, Acton.

Also Alex and Anna Chernoff, J.W. Jones, Velma and Clyde Strickland, localites, joined Lucy, Flossy and Clarence for the observance.

* * *

Sarge and Marie Stanley have a new great-grandson, Charles Henry Chen. Proud grandparents are Charles and Doris Brundle.

* * *

Guests of Bob and Dottie Carter were former Yucca Valley residents, Byron and Jeanne Hanson, now of Troy, Idaho. Also Tony and June DeVitt, of Los Angeles. AND a big-footed cougar who left in a hurry without the jack-rabbit that he "terminated."

* * *

Good to have Mervin Sharp home again after a lengthy confinement in the hospital.

* * *

Mrs. Conrad, with her son and daughter-in-law dropped in for a visit with the Padens and the Jarvises.

* * *

The Minnix family hosted relatives from Fargo, North Dakota, where the temperature has been 31 below zero for the past month. Indications are there will be a change of residence for the visitors.

MORE WHISPERS

Dan and Eva Jarvis enjoyed a wonderful get-together with children, grand-children and great-grand-children, more than 30 in all.

C. B. CLUB MEETS

Next meeting of the Desert Ears CB Club is scheduled for Feb. 11 in the Homestead Association Hall in Landers.

Bob Forrester installed the new officers at the January meeting, in an impressive ceremony, preceded by a pot-luck luncheon.

Installed with pomp and dignity were Bert Campbell, president; Deane Piner, vice president; Ann Hawley, treasurer; Ruby Piner, secretary; Bob Forrester, finance; Bob Presley, parliamentarian; Marie Stanley, historian; Ancel Cole, food; Harold Hawley, entertainment; and Eva Hibbard, membership.

Outgoing officers received pins and commendations for a rewarding year.

Unable to attend was Mel Olin, the retiring president, who will receive a gavel in recognition of his year of service.

CHURCH NEWS

Landers Community Church
Landers, Calif.
Off the Old Woman Springs Road at the Dixie Mine Road.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Mid-week Hour of Power,
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Ladies' Missionary Society, the second Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., with covered dish luncheon

EVERYONE WELCOME

Guest speaker at the Jan. 28 11 a.m. service will be the Rev. Allen McAnlis, of Hospitality International, and foreign exchange students.

The Feb. 4 guest speaker will be the Rev. David Schmidt, regional representative of Southern California Independent Fundamental Church of America.

An invitation is extended to all to share in the fellowship.

* * *

St. Paul's Catholic Church
Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley

Sunday masses are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. The parish extends to a point five miles east of the Chisel Inn.

Pastor is Fr. Patrick J. Scanlon.

Announcements from all churches are most welcome.

THE OLD HORNED TOAD HAS A VISITOR

Visiting me under my rock this month was Bill Wark, who for 17 years was "Iron Mike", villain of wrestling. Iron Mike was Pacific Coast middleweight champion for four years. As light heavyweight he grappled with Gorgeous George, Danny McChain, Wild Red Berry and Lord Blears. He ran 32 straight main events on television, and in 17 years, totaled about 4,420 matches.

Bill loves the mountains, words, and people. He is a founding member of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team, and has participated in bringing 1,046 persons to safety when they were lost, injured or stranded. Bill's facade is as rugged as the mountains he loves, but his heart is as soft and squisshy as underdone pudding. He works for Lever Brothers, a company which generously gives him the time to go on rescue missions.

Iron Mike is a freelance writer, who talks about his mountains, the team, and local history. As guest columnist for The Desert Whispers, he tells about professional wrestling.

"It's terrible!

"The bright lights, the deadly white of the canvas, the butterfly feeling in the stomach before the match, and the clanging bell. The roar of the crowd letting off steam, against the villain - Iron Mike.

"The wrestler must fight five or six nights a week, and he must get over with the audience, either as the good guy or as the bad guy. A few dull nights and he is washed up, and must move to another town, another state, to wherever a kind-hearted promoter will give him another chance. And there are few kind-hearted promoters.

"Although the Lord seems to have sprinkled my trail with sunshine, it was still heart-breaking to see the older wrestlers hanging around the booking office, pleading for one more chance to make a few dollars. The wrestler has no social security, no unemployment compensation, no medical insurance, no trade, and no future.

"Professional wrestling is big business controlled by few, a pretty tough bunch. I'll never forget the well-known older wrestler, who failed to get over with the crowds in Montana, during the depression. He was a gentle soul, not typical of the gang. He had a wife and four children in Washington, waiting for bread and butter money that never arrived. We dug up about four dollars. As I watched him grab a freight and wave goodbye on a cold, snowy day, it must have been the cold that made my eyes water.

"The wrestler usually arrives in town about two hours before the match. He stands on the street corner, holding a little bag with his trunks, dressing robe, light wrestling shoes, towel, and a bar of soap, watching family groups passing by. As the skies darken, he walks to the arena, hoping that his match will get over and that the promoter will want him back. If the villain can so infuriate the audience that people douse him with beer, (bless the paper cup law) shower the ring with popcorn, try to burn him with cigars and cigarettes, and the ladies stick him with pins, then he is doing pretty good. But when the crowd surges into the ring to help the hero, and the villain flees to the dressing room, praying he can stay on his feet as he dodges feet and fists, and all is bedlam and uproar as the wrestlers come boiling out of the back room to save him, then he is truly a success."

Thanks a lot, Bill. Please come again. M.C.

* * * * * * * *

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED - Side saddle in excellent condition. Jane Essling, 6541 Sabbicas Circle, Huntington Beach. Phone 714-842-4811.

Classified ads - ten cents a line

The Desert Whispers from Johnson Valley is published on the last Saturday of the month. Subscriptions are one dollar and a half ($1.50) a year, or for twelve (12) issues in the event publication becomes more frequent.
Mailing address:
Star Route #2,
Box 804 or 808,
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THE DESERT WHISPERS

Martha Coutant Editor
Marie Stanley Associate Editor
Stanley O. Coutant Managing Editor
Published once a month in Timico Acres, Johnson Valley, California.

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OH, HORRORS DEPARTMENT

According to the best of desert authorities, Edmund C. Jaeger, we should be calling the area Johnson Basin. A valley is a drained depression. The term basin is appropriate when speaking of the undrained mountain-rimmed depression of a desert area. Rainwater sinks into the basin here, and does not drain out to other areas.

* * *

WANT TO BE A GUY ON A WHITE HORSE?

On a chilly morning this winter, Gus Valentine went up to the Rock Corral Water tank and found the pipe had been broken. He fixed it!

Gus returned and found it again damaged. And again and again; five breaks. He looked for a culprit, and found Jack Frost. Frozen pipes.

Gus spent $20 for materials, rounded up a bunch of the good guys, and made fairly permanent repairs.

Many permanent residents and week-enders use water from the old tank, which was installed by the cattlemen years ago. The tank has required frequent repairs. Our good friend Daisy Crawford, who passed on last November, used to see that the funds were provided to maintain the water tank. Things just seem to happen up there.

The water is free for all who wish to go up and haul it down.

Contributions for maintenance of the tank and to reimburse Gus are being accepted by Golda Gunning, and will be handled through the Grandview Improvement Association. So if you want to be a good guy on a white horse, Mrs. Gunning's address is Star Route 2, Box 781, Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284.

* * * * * *

PROCRASTINATION

So many things I've left undone!
Like marching soldiers, one by one;
They pass before me in review,
The little things I meant to do!
-Anon.

* * *

YOU'RE INVITED

The next meeting of the Grandview Improvement Association will be held Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m., in the Association building.

Come and have your say in matters which will affect the values of your properties in Johnson Valley.

Alex Chernoff is president.

Group purchase of home fire extinguishers is one of the items to be discussed.

* * * * *

HOME TALENT CORNER

WILD HORSES
By Jody DeVictoria (7th grader)

Have you ever seen a band of horses
Running free and wild,
Eating, drinking, running,
Some acting like a child?

Have you ever seen the stallion with
His proud head held high,
With his nostrils flaring
Eyes flashing and alert.
If you look into them you see fire.

Have you ever seen the mares and foals,
Some young and others old,
Some eating and drinking,
Playing in the morning cold?

Now watch the stallion.
He senses something strange
Now he rounds the band up,
And heads them toward the range.

Finally he stops them, so
They can cool off and drink.
Now they lie in the grass,
Watching the sun sink.

WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!

Property owners who are interested in good roads, phones, a disposal facility, or a park, are urged to write to the agency or representative concerned.

Names, addresses, and sample letters have been posted on the bulletin board in the Grandview Improvement Association building, by Alex Chernoff, GIA president.

There is a possibility that the Old Woman Springs Road will be placed in the State System of Roads, according to reports, but action must be taken now.

Write to:
Assemblyman Stewart Hinkley,
204 E. State St.,
Redlands, Cal. 92373.
Or at the State Capital,
Sacramento, Cal.

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Joe and Aileen, Proprietors

Application has been made for a license to sell cocktails, and is pending.

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

Mary Neary spent a relaxing week at her cabin, and entertained her brother Mickey and friend Betty. The Nearys expect a full house this weekend.

* * *

Charlie Rope is in Veterans' Hospital for a check-up. Best wishes, Charlie.

* * *

Bill Cotter says he feels like a new man, after his operation. He's back home after a check-up.

* * *

Several visitors in the area looking at property recently.

* * *

Glad to hear that Golda Gunning is well on the road to recovery from a cracked rib, and sprained wrist.

* * *

The Search and Rescue meets tonight at the Campbells', at 5 o'clock. The group is now being organized, and all are welcome. The S & R will help those ill, lost or stranded until arrival of professional help.

* * *

According to reports, a group responsible for many burglaries of desert cabins in the past two years have been apprehended. Sheriffs traced the trail from Arizona. It is hoped that the local burglaries will now cease.

-Aileen DeVictoria

CONTACT WITH JAPAN

Stanley O. Coutant has received his general class radio amateur operator's license, and his call letters are WB6WFI. So far he is operating on low power equipment from Johnson Valley, and has made several east coast contacts.

Furthest contact to date on the station is Tokyo, Japan. Stan's cousin, Peter Heisig, WN6WGS, was operating the station and made the contact with Japan.

MORE HAPPENINGS

Mrs. Elisa Stanley, from Bridgeport, New Jersey, is visiting the Stanleys in Johnson Valley. It is her first visit to California and she loves the desert already.

* * * * *

As long as I have want, I have reason for living. Satisfaction is death. -George Bernard Shaw.

Stuck in the mud